

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

D.A. Farias et al.

Examiner:

Gerald J. O'Connor

Serial No.:

09/712,584

Group Art Unit:

3627

Filed:

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TITLE:

REPLENISHMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD

I hereby cartify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to Gerald J. O'Connor of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at 709 872-9306 on December 25, 2003.

12/26/03

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This amendment is submitted in response to the final office action dated September 29, 2003 ("Final Office Action) entered in response to a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). On November 24, 2003, the Examiner and attorney for Applicants held a phone interview discussing the claims. Although no agreement was reached, Applicants and the Examiner discussed certain amendments to the claims to further distinguish over the cited art. Applicants amend the claims as discussed during the phone interview. Applicants request that the Examiner enter this amendment and allow the claims for the reasons discussed herein.

Pases 6-32 (of 32)

Pases aduption to 16, now entered the 19.

Pases a paper paper

PAGE 6/32* RCVD AT 1/29/2004 7:18:55 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/0 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:3105567984 * DURATION (mm-ss):08-56